ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A messaging data structure for accessing data in an identity-centric manner. An identity may be a user, a group of users, or an organization. Instead of data being maintained on an application-by-application basis, the data associated with a particular identity is stored by one or more data services accessible by many applications. The data is stored in accordance with a schema that is recognized by a number of different applications and the data service. The messaging data structure includes fields that identify the target data object to be operated upon using an identity field, a schema field, and an instance identifier field. In addition, the desired operation is specified. Thus, the target data object is operated on in an identity-centric manner.

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